

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

October 22, 2012

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

October 26 Math - Unit 4 test  
October 26 Science Research Paper Rough Draft Du  
October 31 Bowling Outing

## Dear Families,

It was a pleasure seeing you all at conferences last week. Your homeroom teacher will send a survey asking you about conferences. If you can take a few minutes to provide feedback on the format, we would appreciate your help.

This week, you will receive your child's ISAT scores from last spring. Please look for these to come home with your child.

Your student also is bringing home a permission slip for the bowling outing. Please be sure to return it as soon as possible, along with the Outdoor Ed health form. Here is the Wiki link:

<http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/Permission+Slips>

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**Art** - We are just finishing up our Optical Illusions art project. Our two-dimensional Op Art projects achieve the illusion of three-dimensions and are on display by the main office. We have received many compliments. Check them out on [here](#)!

**Music** - [Check out the website!](#) We are using recorders again in music this week. If your child cannot find theirs they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to District 97 to purchase a new one. You may also click here to buy a [recorder online from the Holmes store](#). Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. If financial assistance is needed, email Mrs. Karia at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org). **NEW INFORMATION! If your child does not have their recorder in class they will be given a loaner recorder for the day. Please email Mrs. Karia if you want more information.**

**Chorus-** Chorus' first concert is at the Oak Park Arms Saturday, October 27th. Please go to the chorus website for the [lyrics to the songs we are singing as well as the permission slip](#) if you have not signed one for your child yet.

**Spanish** - The fifth graders continue to work with *La Montaña Hamburguesa*. Each group made changes to the story, performed their version and recorded it. We will be watching the recordings this week! Students can still read the story to someone for 10 extra puntos! Check it out on the Spanish blog: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

**Library** - Reading Olympics: The school competition will take place Tuesday, November 20 at 12:45 pm in the Holmes library; parents/guardians are welcome to attend. The area-wide competition is open to the public and will be held on Friday, December 7, with time details will follow. Go to the library blog for a special treat (Neil Gaiman reading the first chapter of *The Graveyard Book* !): [holmesmediacenter.blogspot.com](http://holmesmediacenter.blogspot.com). Please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with questions.

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.

### **Reading/Literature**

Last week, we finished our unit on Courage. Throughout this week, the students will be working on the unit test. Students will also be doing workshop as usual. The past few weeks we have also been practicing how to write a response to a question using specific details from the text to explain and support their answers. This week, students will work independently to read The Shot Heard Around the World and answer the question "Why did the colonists begin to fight for independence from Great Britain?"

We will have our final literature circle discussion around the book, The Breadwinner on **Wednesday, October 17**. Students are expected to have finished the book and completed their role sheets and quality questions before the discussion. Students who work with Ms. Circo meet to discuss their week's reading each Monday.

### **Language Arts**

This week in language arts we are working on improving voice in our writing. Voice is the writer coming through the words, the sense that a real person is speaking to us and cares about the message. It is the heart and soul of the writing. Students also will continue to revise their Memorable Moment paragraphs and publish a final draft this week.

### **Math**

This week, we will finish our unit on division. We will start the week by discussing remainders. Students will determine whether the remainder in a division problem should be ignored, rounded up, or reported as a fraction or decimal. Our unit test will be on Friday. We will review in class on Thursday, and students will have a review sheet from which to study. Next week, we will start on fractions.

### **Science**

The rough draft of the science research paper, along with all research materials (source cards, note cards, etc.) is due Friday, October 26.

This week, we begin our study of energy at school and at home. Students will sketch both locations and identify where energy is being used and where it can be saved. These lessons will lead us to create feasibility studies in the coming weeks.

### **Social Studies**

**Big Question:** How does someone become president of the United States, and what are their responsibilities once in office.

This week students will be introduced to the executive branch of the government. We will discuss who can run for president, as well as the responsibilities of the office of the president as outlined in the U.S. constitution. Students will be given a Presidents project on Thursday, and have in class time to work on it on Friday. Next week we will discuss the electoral process, including the electoral college.

### **We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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